(iv) To promote activities, which will highlight and strengthen the bonds of unity and affinity between different religious and other groups in the country.

(b) There is no proposal to change the role of National Foundation for Communal Harmony.

(c) No. Sir.

Spurt in bomb blasts incidents

2849. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in bomb blasts in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents of bomb blasts in the country during the last six months, the type of material used therein, number of persons killed and injured and the compensation paid to injured and kins of deceased;

(c) whether anybody claimed responsibility or whether Government detected the group(s) responsible for these blasts;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to nab the culprits and prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) In recent months, following five significant bomb blasts have taken place in various parts of the country:

(i) On Nov. 21, 2002, an I ED placed in a scooter exploded outside the Sai Temple in Dilsukhnagar area on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, resulting in death of one person and injuries to 18. Low power explosive was used in the blast.

(ii) An explosion took place in a bus near Ghatkopar Station (West), Mumbai on Dec. 2, 2002 killing 2 persons and injuring 37. The ground test indicated presence of nitrate based high explosive.

(iii) On 6th Dec. 2002, an explosion took place in Mc Donald's restaurant at Mumbai Central Railway Station, Mumbai injuring 25 persons. The test indicated that the bomb consisted of potassium nitrate, nitrite, sulpher, gun powder etc.

(iv) On Jan. 27, 2003, an explosion took place in a vegetable market opposite ville Parle Railway Station, Mumbai killing on person and injuring 33.

(v) An IED exploded in a Karjat Bound local train near Mulund Railway Station, Mumbai, on 13th March, 2003 killing 11 persons and injuring 82. The compensation in such cases is announced by the concerned State Government/agencies. Information in this regard is not available with the Central Government.

(c) and (d) No group/individual has claimed responsibility for these blasts. However, investigations so far conducted reveal involvement of elements of Lashkar-e-Toiba and SIMI in some cases mentioned above.

(e) During the investigation of these cases, 7 accused have been arrested.Three terrorist of Lashkar-e-Toiba died in exchange of fire with the Mumbai Police on 29.3.2003. Intelligence agencies of Union Government have been closely interacting with the State police in the investigation of these cases and have rendered significant assistance.

Police action against tribals of Kerala

2850. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether police action and cases filed against tribals at Muthanga, Wyanand district of Kerala is in the attention of competent authority;

(b) if so, details including cases registered;

(c) whether there are many cases registered in various parts of country in which Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are a party;

(d) if so, details including number of such cases registered, pending for, trials started, convicted, acquitted, State-wise, year-wise, category-wise, for last three years; and

(e) number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes undergo ing imprisonment in various jails, State-wise, category-wise, year-wise for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 7 IPC cases were registered in S. Bathery Police Station. A total of 172 persons, including 10 women were arrested and produced before